

Tribal leaders Lewis Taylor, Myron Ellis and Stanley Crooks reportedly spoke about the effects the decision would have on surrounding tribes. Crooks expressed his view that fee-to-trust applications require the actual approval of surrounding tribes before they may be approved under IGRA. BlueDog argued that applicants should not be permitted to take control of the land on which the Hudson dog track is situated because it historically belonged to the Dakota Sioux. BlueDog and others apparently expressed their dismay at the lack of established procedures at Interior for deciding whether to approve such applications. BlueDog reportedly also asserted at the meeting that the tribes had been historically solid or strong Democrats who supported the Administration and other Democrats and should be given at least an opportunity to be heard by the Administration.¹⁶⁰ No witness recalls any explicit mention or discussion of campaign contributions during either of the meetings in Oberstar's office on this date.

Skibine recalled that the tribes and congressmen pushed Duffy to state during the meeting that the application would be denied. Duffy and Skibine both recalled that, when it became apparent that he would not do so, the attendees complained that tribes opposed to the casino had not had an adequate opportunity to express their views on the application, and wanted to provide economic analyses of the impact of the new casino on their existing operations. Duffy responded that they would have an opportunity to provide any information they wanted. At the time Duffy made that promise, neither he nor Skibine was aware of whether the claim of non-consultation was valid, but thought that it seemed unreasonable not to allow the opponent tribes to submit

¹⁶⁰Duffy stated that someone (he could not recall whom) approached him as the meeting was breaking up and made the point to him that the applicants were Republicans and the Administration should not help them. He said that he did not take this comment seriously, and denied that party affiliation had any effect on the decision-making process.